



KwaZulu-Natal Scout Trail



REPORTING SCOUTING VIEWS AND NEWS IN KWAZULU-NATAL FOR OVER 60 YEARS

WHY I AM A SCOUT

My name is Ntombikayise Mjiho. I am 17 years of age and am from 2nd Imbaliyamazulu Troop situated at Inanda outside Durban.

This year I am working on my Springbok Badge which is not easy but with the journey I have had in the scout movement this far everything I know will be fine if I work hard.

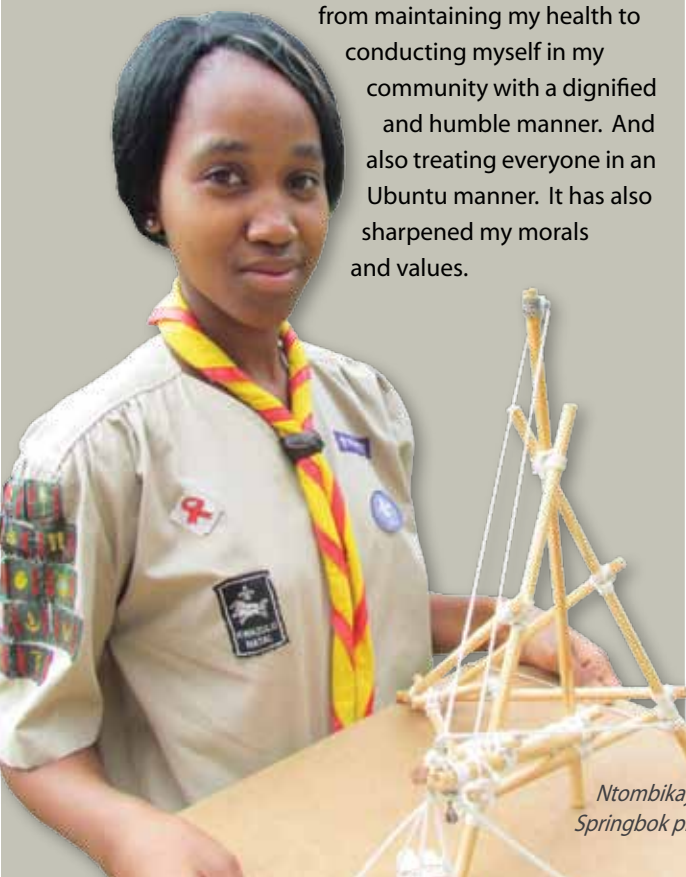
I started being a scout in the year 2004 and I've been in this movement since then. I enjoy everything about scouting, and not forgetting the 108th PLTU course held at Lexden, Pietermaritzburg, last year. I was one of the participants and my matric results came while I was there and I achieved a Bachelor's pass.

I'm looking forward to more and more scouting journeys to come and obtaining more interest badges than I have now. I have 18 and still have a long way to go.

I am hoping to become a Troop Scouter for my Troop one day. And discovering more and more adventure, making more friends and being able to travel.

Scouting has helped me keep away from the streets and drugs as well as teenage pregnancy because nowadays teenagers are getting into bad habits because they don't have much to do and they are taught about those things though they don't listen. Scouting has taught me so much, from maintaining my health to

conducting myself in my community with a dignified and humble manner. And also treating everyone in an Ubuntu manner. It has also sharpened my morals and values.



Ntombikayise shows her Springbok pioneering model.



Scouts on display at CARS IN THE PARK

58th Air Scouts did some excellent PR for scouting at the Pietermaritzburg, Cars in the Park.

The 58th Air Scouts for a number of years have put up a wonderful scouting display of memorabilia, posters covering past air related activities and even taken an old vintage Willy's Jeep that belongs to their Group Chairman, Rob Allen. This year's 36th running of the Cars in the Park in Pietermaritzburg was no exception. The 58th scouts camped over on the Saturday evening so come Sunday morning after a hearty breakfast with their tents already up and with some swift work under the guidance of Troop Scouter, Nigel Lewis-Walker the scouts had lashed some useful tables, put up a range of attractive scouting displays, some old aircraft memorabilia and even some radio controlled aircraft hanging inside from the roof tent. Many visitors passing through commented on what an interesting display 58th had done. "It's a great way to raise the profile of scouting in our province", said Rob Allen. With over 5 000 people who pass through the gates Nigel agrees. "We always have many visitors that are now parents who used to once be scouts and are now keen to get their youngsters involved. We put them in touch with the scout groups in their area or direct them to KZN Scout HQ for further information. For us it's a fun day's outing and our 58th scouts get a chance to do some public relations, to see the lovely old cars and the modern sports cars that are on display".

A camping we will go...

On Friday, 27 April 2012, the 1st Ethelbert Scout Troop went camping with Scouts from 1st Malvern Scout Group.

Each year, the 1st Malvern Scout Troop holds an annual Troop camp which Ethelbert Scouts are invited to. It's an opportunity for the two Troops to interact, compete and learn from each other.

The scouts spent the weekend participating in a variety of leadership challenges and learning new scouting skills. As well as having the chance to participate in several construction projects.

The camp was held at BP Camp, which is situated in Burman Bush.

The scouts all had an action packed weekend, filled with games, activities and laughter.

Thank you to Guy Caws (1st Malvern Group Scouter) for organising the camp.



1st Ethelbert and Malvern scouts having fun at one of the challenging bases during a combined camp.

KZN scout gets to meet the Queen & Bear Grylls

It's not everyone who can say they rubbed shoulders with Royalty, the Commonwealth Secretary and an international famous reality star. KZN's own Thulasizwe Ntsele, who was chosen as one of four South African youth to represent SA Scouting at Commonwealth Scout Forum for the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations in early May. "This was a life changing trip for me," said Thulasizwe. "The people we met, the scouting experiences, seeing Gilwill Park, the scouting Mecca of the world and of course meeting Bear Grylls and the Queen was way more than I could ever have dreamt of!"

The main event was the National Scout Service and Parade held at Windsor. It was a very early start on the Sunday morning coach, to Windsor Castle. After passing through stringent security and the uniform inspection, the Commonwealth Scout Forum delegates joined different groups of UK Queen's Scouts for the marching practice. Bear Grylls, UK Chief Scout, met a number of the delegates including the South Africans for the obligatory photo call.

The weather was not good: cold and wet, and the wet weather plan was put in place for the parade. Her Majesty The Queen reviewed the Queen's Scouts and Commonwealth delegates as they marched through the quadrangle on the way to St George's Chapel. A number of Commonwealth High Commissioners were also present.

The National Scout Service was led by four Queen's Scouts on a theme of Crossroads; the different requirements for the Queen Scout Awards were highlighted and formed a signpost to the future. The important thing was taking the achievements forward and to greater levels on the scouting journey through life. All members of the scout movement renewed their promise led by the UK Chief Scout, Bear Grylls.

On leaving the Chapel the parade formed up by the steps from the Chapel where we were addressed by Bear Grylls who expressed his pride in the achievement of all scouts gaining their Top Award and wished them well for the future.

"To be part of this international brotherhood of scouting was something very special and the experience will live with me forever," said an enthused Thulasizwe.



(l-r) Thulasizwe Ntsele (KZN), Brendon Whelan (GP) General Secretary, Genevieve Foster(WC) and Robert Tuner (WC).



Thulasizwe meets Bear Grylls, chief scout UK.



Newly invested cub, Ziyanda Mthembu, who found a lovely sea shell she liked.

CUBS EXPLORE ROCKY POOLS

The South African coast represents a fragile and complex environment, teeming with interesting scenery, plants and animals. South Africans love their beaches, especially in the summer, and cubs are no different!

Braving the cold, overcast and very windy elements the Stainbank District Cubs gathered to learn more about the beach, and the types of plants, animals and birds at the coast. They soon discovered these are different from those in inland, or in a forest because they are adapted to living in the sand and the salty water.

The Cub Fun Day was held at Treasure Beach, Bluff, Durban and was hosted by WESSA. The Packs were split into 3 groups and each group had a WESSA Guide to tell all about why it is important to look after our ecosystem along the rocky shore lines of South Africa. It was interesting to learn about the animals that live in these rock pools of sea water and how they rely on each other, to live and be part of the life cycle and if we take just one thing away, how that system will collapse.

"It was great to see our cubs become young explorers!", said Jean "Kaa" Thurman of the 1st Umbogintwini Cub Pack. "When the tide went out they were able to ramble across the beach and get to the rocky pools and see what was left behind: small fish, crabs, shells, seaweed and of course, they were able learn what each one is called and who eats who in the food chain."



The cubs and their leaders (with a few parents) who came out to brave the weather.

NEW NATIONAL ROVER AWARDS DESIGNED BY KZN ROVER

Cameron Belling, a member of SIGMA Rover Crew, has played an exciting role in the new Rover Advancement Programme. Cameron got in touch with Gerard Evans, National Commissioner – Rovers, when he completed the Crew in a Box book who mentioned he was open to redesigning the awards and suggested Cameron send some designs through. Cameron contributed 10 new designs for the badges of the updated programme. Six of his designs were approved by the National Scout Council, the most exciting of all was his design for the BP Award (Rover equivalent of the scout Springbok award) which will be worn by Rovers throughout South Africa when they achieve it. *Well done Cameron!*



Cameron with his award winning badge.

SCOUTING IN A BOX?

Frustrated that he wasn't able to find a scouting resource to help him with an introduction on how to run a Scout Troop and Rover Crew, no problem to Cameron Belling of the Sigma Rover crew, who decided to write his own set of reference books!

Cameron has produced three very useful scouting books printed in a series called, Pack in a box, Troop in a box and Crew in a box.

Specially prepared for adults brand new to cubs, scouts and rovers, this is your complete 'pick up and go' guide to running a Pack, Troop or Crew. With all the

ceremonies and traditions fully explained, at the heart of the resource is a year's worth of programmes including ideas and instructions included for each activity linked to the scout craft interest badge system.

The guide explains what cubs, scouts and rovers is all about and provides essential information on the theory behind our programmes and methods. It also points you in the right direction for more information and highlights several important policies you as an adult leader need to be aware of. It includes a year's worth of programmes for you to run with

as well as a variety of additional activities you can include in your Pack, Troop and Crew meetings.

"These activities have been tried and tested by experienced Pack and Troop Scouters and Crew leaders", explained Cameron, "so we know they work and that you and your cubs, scouts or rovers will enjoy them."

It's a set of locally developed scouting reference books that every scout group should have in their library. Get in touch with Cameron on cell - 079 291 1911, or email: ckbelling@gmail.com to get your copy.

TOP AWARD FOR KZN ROVERS

Rover Scouts have eight different awards that they can strive for. If a Rover holds at least four awards he or she may be nominated to receive the BP award which is the highest award a rover can receive.

For the first time in many years the BP award was presented to three KZN rovers: Grant Vernon, Cameron Belling both from Sigma Rover Crew and Adrienne van der Walt from... Rover Crew. Very few Rovers actually receive this award which makes this a very noteworthy occasion for KZN scouting and for the three recipients.

At a function hosted by the Sigma Rover Crew at their new renovated group HQ at Bawden Hall, the awards were presented by Dr Dudley Forde, the KZN Provincial Commissioner, Garth Kloppenborg and the KZN APC for Rovers, Graven Payer.

On behalf of the KZN scouting Movement, congratulations Grant, Cameron and Adrienne!!



Proud recipients of the Rover BP award are Adrienne van der Walt, Cameron Belling and Grant Vernon with Dr Dudley Forde, and Garth Kloppenborg.

Good work GOODENOUGH!



Goodenough Dlamini has done some amazing work growing scouts in KZN.

In April last year Goodenough Dlamini was appointed for a 12 month period by The National Scout Council (NSC) of Scouts South Africa to look at revitalizing scouts at schools in KZN. A rather lofty target of recruiting 100 000 members all inclusive (adults and youth). This was no mean task, yet undaunted Goodenough set about to put his plan into action.

A letter of support and introducing Goodenough Dlamini and scouting to the KZN schools was sent out from Dr Mbokazi of the Department of Education to all the district circuits and wards.

"I realised the key to this scouting recruiting initiative was marketing scouts to the circuit managers and principles of schools," said Goodenough. "National sent through some marketing material which proved invaluable and by the end of two

school terms 16 circuits had been visited and presentations on "What is Scouting?" had been done."

"For 12 months I travelled all over the province marketing scouts and am pleased to report that there is not a single circuit that had less than 200 principals attend my scouting presentations!"

Recruiting was only part of Goodenough's plan. Once numbers of new adults swelled then he had to identify adult trainers who were already in uniform to help run permit phase courses and here with the help of the KZN training team these were run at central venues around the province.

The youngsters new to scouting needed to have activities that they could enjoy and again with the help of his adult trainers he ran rallies. During the first term with the 10 day school holidays, each District had to conduct a minimum four day camp to check scout training standards generally in each District and to recruit Patrol Leaders. A Winter camp was held in the Msunduzi River Valley during the winter holidays which took 7 days under leadership of the Assistant Provincial Commissioner – Scout Programme. It was a very successful camp. It took PL's from membership right up to explorer level.

A successful GS/Commissioners Warrant was conducted at Lexden where at least 32 Commissioners participated. On the ALT Course 25 participants attended and 23 were ready for appointments.

This is some of the excellent scouting success we have been able to see in our KZN schools. Without the leadership of Goodenough Dlamini and his team of dedicated hard working scouters, this amazing growth would never have happened.

Bravo Goodenough!

Richards Bay do their bit for cancer



1st Richards Bay Sea scouts about to fill hundreds of Luminarie bags dedicated to cancer survivors.

1st Richards Bay Sea Scout Group took part in the 'Cancer Relay for Life' in Richards Bay in May at the Boardwalk Shopping centre. 1st Richards Bay were in charge of the LUMINARIE BAGS. They had to fill hundreds of paper bags with sand all dedicated to Cancer survivors and place them around the perimeter of the walk with a candle inside the bag. The candles were lit, lights switched off and a lap of honour was done by the cancer survivors in memory of loved ones passed away. These bags were all decorated with paint and pictures of loved ones and it was a very moving ceremony. The 1st Richards Bay Scouts were congratulated on a job well done. In total R139 000 was raised for Cancer at the Relay.

Farewell Lorna!



Lorna Newman first became involved in Scouting in 1984 when her son joined at 8 in Newton Park, Port Elizabeth. Lorna and her husband served on the Group Committee, until they moved to Amanzimtoti in 1986. "Thanks to being 'brow beaten' by the then Group Scouter, we got involved with 1st Amanzimtoti Scouts, where I initially helped out as a non-uniformed helper, then as an assistant Pack Scouter and finally as the Pack Scouter," mused Lorna.

One day while she was in the office buying some badges, she offered to help as they had lost their bookkeeper at that stage. Lorna came in to help mornings only and then it escalated to full time. When the previous secretary retired, she was asked to take on her position. "I have worked at the office since 1995 and have enjoyed working with all the various groups and their leaders immensely," said Lorna.

Her family had been involved with 1st Amanzimtoti since 1986 and after a few years break, she came back to help out when the Group had no warranted scouters. In between she also helped at 1st Port Natal Sea Scouts for 6 years as Pack Scouter. "I have completed my Cub Wood Badge as well as a GS/Commissioner's Wood Badge," said Lorna. "I have also worked on the Training Team since 1993."

Provincial Commissioner, Garth Kloppenborg said: "Lorna has been a good servant to Scouting in KZN. I thank her for what she has done and wish her all the best in retirement."

Scouting goes Urban in Durban



Scouts test their canoeing skills on Silverglen Dam.



This is hard work!



Scouts sleep under their home made survival shelter.



Kailan Muthen being shown the finer points of marksmanship at the air rifle base.

Who says scouts have to always hike in the countryside? With many scout groups located in cities and surrounding urban settlements, the scouts in the city of Durban, decided to plan a fun three day hike around their city making use of nature reserves and other open areas commonly found in cities.

The theme for this urban hike was the "Great Escape" where scouts had to use their scout survival skills to cross "hostile territory" and find a "safe" place.

Now in its second year, the Barkus Boot hike started on Thursday evening at the Chatsworth Youth Centre and the following two days in Silverglen Nature Reserve. At the assembly point, the scouts were given a detailed brief in preparation for the hike, without revealing all the surprises they were in for along the way! During the evening the scouts were "attacked" by the hostile forces and taken prisoner. However, by sunrise their "captures" had deserted them. The scouts

had only one option which was to make for safe territory. With maps left by their "captures", they were able to work out the safest and quickest route to safety.

During their "escape" they encountered an number of obstacles, and had to use their skills and or newly acquired skills to cross hostile territory. Skills acquired were: water harvesting and purifying drinking water, map reading, bush craft where the scouts were introduced to poisonous and edible plants, making a conservation stove and use it for all their cooking purposes, canoeing to cross a lake, make survival shelters for the night, camouflage and concealment, paint ball along a jungle path, build a pioneering structure to cross the border security fence and get the patrol to safety.

The patrols cooked their food, backwoods style, slept out in survival improvised shelters made from local vegetation and organised an impromptu camp fire and silk screened their blanket

patches and T-shirts.

"A great time was had by all", said the organiser, Garth Kloppenborg, Provincial Commissioner. "This is something that scouts in cities anywhere in the world could easily replicate which of course cuts down the costs of having to travel into the countryside. It also significantly raised the profile of scouting in the Durban Metro, as the scouts competed wearing their scarves which attracted many favourable comments from the public, happy to see that scouting was alive and well and having such fun!", said Garth.

Many thanks to 84 Signals Unit who used this as an exercise to provide guards to accompany the scouts around the city.

Note from the editor

This annual scouting event is great fun and something that each KZN group should send a patrol along to take part in. Put it on your scout group year planner for 2013.

New area manager for KZN scouts

Imelda Haarhoff has had over 40 years' association with scouting, predominantly in Durban having held a number of portfolios from district commissioner, assistant area commissioner, a member of the training team as leader trainer and a member of the PLTU. Imelda has also held a senior position as a financial manager for a large national organisation for many years where she was responsible for the preparation and management of large budgets.

Imelda took up her appointment at the

beginning of May and also brings to the provincial office much NGO experience gained from her role as a long serving board member of the Highway Hospice. In between all of this, Imelda manages to find time for community upliftment projects as a member of Durban Thekwini Rotary, which she leads this year as the president of her club.

We are very excited about Imelda's decision to join KZN Scouting's management team and wish her all the best as we all work towards our vision of growing scouting in KZN.



4th Durban at Lake Eland Nature Reserve

4th Durban scouts cross the suspension bridge at the top of Oribi Gorge while on a hike.



4th Durban about to set off on a challenging mountain bike ride.

4th Durban Scout group settled in for a wonderful six days alongside the lake at Lake Eland, Oribi Gorge. Lake Eland is a nature reserve with opportunities for water activities, hiking, survival challenges, mountain biking, observing wild animals and space for games and camping. Anna Talbot led this as her Springbok camp which amongst many things also included, preparing her Springbok meal in sheeting down rain. Fortunately there is enough shelter at Lake Eland and all hot coals and Dutch ovens were kept going to produce a delicious meal for everyone. As part of the fun, bikes were taken, to make the most of the 45km's of MTB trails. Canoes, tubes and surf ski's were also available for the lake. Rolf von den Meden completed a bike hike as one of his Explorer challenges. A highlight was walking up from the bottom of the Gorge to the top edge and walking across the suspension bridges. Lake Eland also has the longest zip line in Africa but unfortunately it costs about the same as the whole camp to go on it! Walking back to camp, the giraffes crossed our paths. The reserve is excellent for Veldcraft activities and Scouts were challenged, al la Bear Grylls style to squeeze water from antelope droppings. Desperate needs require desperate measures but these Scouts are prepared for a thirsty day in the bush! We consider Lake Eland a just about perfect Scout camp site!!



The Wandsbeck cubs did well to raise food for a number of charities in their community:

(l-r) Keegan Booyens, Stirling Proctor, James Butler, Ethan van Heerden and Rahul Harrichunder.

WANDSBECK CHARITY FOOD DRIVE

As a Pack we decided to continue with the annual egg and tin drive as we have our charities that we support each year and it is good for the Cubs to help with community service for the underprivileged even though it is on a small scale but every bit does help. The public once again, was very supportive and we managed to distribute a fair amount to the following organisations:

MALVERN CHURCH SOUP KITCHEN • MARY ASHER SENIOR CITIZENS HOME • HIBBERDENE CHILDREN'S HOME • THE HIGHWAY AGED • OPEN DOOR CRISIS CENTRE • WESTVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH – for food parcels • ST THERESA'S CHILDREN'S HOME • MKHUHLA HOME • VUKUHANYE CHILDREN'S HOME.

A great time was had by all the cubs and a big thank you to the public who keenly supported our drive. We had many people who commented how good it was to see our cubs in uniform.

MENS' SHED FOR SCOUTS?

When George Victor, a former 1st Hillcrest scouts leader came across a concept called 'Mens' Shed' whilst on his travels in Australia it inspired him to bring the concept home to Hillcrest.

George recently formed a 'Mens' Shed' group that will meet at the 1st Hillcrest Scout Group Hall, 16 Shortlands Ave regularly.

The 'Mens' Shed' concept is a venue where men meet on a regular basis to undertake practical repairs or small projects for the community. It consists mainly of retired men who put back time into the community.

"There are more than 500 registered 'Men's Sheds' in Australia and in typical Aussie terms, 'they keep the older men away from the TV and give the younger men confidence in



A 'Mens' Shed' was recently formed as part of the 1st Hillcrest Scout Group, with Group Chairman, Steve Camp (far left) shown receiving tools donated by Gavin Raeburn-Ward (far right). Brian Thomas, George Victor and David Hall (ex scoutmasters and members of the shed) were there to welcome the handover.

themselves and a chance to learn valuable skills," said George.

"Many of the sheds in Australia consist of men from diverse backgrounds who

develop a special bond while undertaking work projects. This concept holds much potential in our country with our various population groups. The men who take part generally lead a healthier lifestyle and have added greatly to communities throughout Australia," he said.

"To the best of our knowledge, this would be one of the first 'Mens' Sheds' in this country. The 'Mens' Shed' at the 1st Hillcrest Scout Hall plans to meet every two weeks or so," said Steve Camp, 1st Hillcrest Scout Group chairman.

For further information contact George Victor 031 765 5745 or 073 901 3902.

How one small voice can make a difference

Karin Carr of 1st Cowies Hill Air Scouts, takes up the story about how a letter from her son, Kyle was behind making a meaningful contribution in his community:

Following a letter written by Kyle to "The Municipality" a number of things have happened which I would like to record here with my appreciation.

The Highway Mail was instrumental in highlighting the plight of the Japanese Gardens and as a result of them publishing Kyle Botha's story, a cub at 1st Cowies Hill, the Parks Department made funds available for the restoration of the Gardens.

Mr William Buthelezi was given the project to manage and has done some amazing work, there is however still a lot of work ahead.

One of the suggestions in a letter was that the Cubs and Scouts of 1st Cowies Hill would be able to help. A litter clean-up with the Cub and Scouts was arranged. On "Youth Day" our youth were out in the Japanese Gardens in force. Our cubs with the help of Mr Buthelezi's team scattered throughout the Gardens to pick up litter. The scouts started with the help of Max (one of the parents) and removed a great number of bags full of the invasive water hyacinth from a pond that was choked. Later with the help of scouts Steffen & Rudi and also Mr Buthelezi and his team they removed some of the dead bamboo near the large pond. Everyone worked really hard and I was so very proud to see the truck supplied by Mr Buthelezi filling up not only with the litter picked up by the cubs but also with the green

bags of rubbish that had been collected by the Parks Department.

I would like to thank everyone who did such a great job. I am very proud of the cubs who did amazing work and picked up so much litter. A special thank you to Travis (who even though it is exam time, still put in a huge effort), to Steffen & Rudi for supporting him today.

There is still a lot of work to be done. Mr

Buthelezi has indicated that the ponds all need to be drained and cleaned before the water feature will be operational again. This is a high priority project for the Parks Department, and while there may be some out there who are sceptical I would issue this challenge to them: Instead of complaining about what is not being done, follow the example of Kyle and his fellow cubs and scouts (and their parents) and do something about it.



1st Cowies Hill air scouts, cubs, parents and the Parks Department combine efforts to clean up local public gardens.

1st Cowies Hill Air scout, Kyle Botha was the inspiration behind cleaning up a public eyesore.

Jay visits scouts in Mauritius

Jay Soma recently travelled to Mauritius on a family holiday and with scouting close to his heart made contact with the Mauritius Scout Association.

"It was indeed an honour and pleasure to visit and meet the officials of the Mauritius Scout Association. We shared a common platform and spoke about scouting in Mauritius and South Africa. The highlight of the Mauritius Scouting this year was their plans and preparations for their 100 years in scouting and their Jamboree celebrations scheduled towards the end of November 2012.

Their HQ, namely Baden Powell House, is proud to have the street named after our founder at 5 Baden Powell Street, Trianon, Quatre Bornes.

Plans to have our South African scouts over for the Jamboree were also discussed and I await further communication and correspondence from them in this regard. (This is smack bang in examination time for most of our scouts here in South Africa, unfortunately, but we will make some plans).

My son, Mayur, who is a scout at the Surat Hindu Scout Group was excited by the variety of interest and professional badges at the scout shop. We bought many items from their scout shop, building up a collection to take over for his Korean Jamboree at the end of July 2012.



Mauritius Scout Commissioner meets with Jay and Mayur Soma at the scout headquarters on the island.

Gone Home

Gordon Grant passed away on 31 May. Gordon was a troop scouter at 1st Hillcrest in 1971-76.

Dr Robin Gatley passed away unexpectedly on 25 May. Robin was one of the pack scouters at 1st Kloof and will be sorely missed for his quick wit and the energy he contributed to scouts in the Highway district.

Fakazile Mbatha passed away recently. She had been a pack scouter since 1992 and ADC cub programme Madadeni District (Newcastle) since 2000. Fakazile will not only be remembered for her dedication but also by her phrase, "Do not forget about those far away from Durban!"

TRACKSUITS FOR ORPHANS



1st Glenashley Journey's End cubs assist with an underprivileged orphanage project at Gateway.

Every second year a track-a-thon is held at Gateway, where people bring along their sewing machines and all help sew tracksuits for underprivileged orphanages. This is the second time 1st Glenashley Journey's End cubs have helped out. The cubs help the ladies by serving tea and coffee and handing out the food, or any other small jobs that need to be done. The event was a huge success with hundreds of tracksuits made. "We will definitely look to taking part again next year," said Byron Gibson, pack scouter, 1st Glenashley Journey's End. "It is important that our cubs help out in the community."

POW WOW 2012

The Star In You ... writes Linda Gale

What a lovely setting greeted us when we arrived at Heron Bridge Estate on the Friday afternoon. After registration and the first of a string of gifts, we were shown to our rooms. The opening ceremony followed where we were welcomed by the Provincial Commissioner for Gauteng, and then welcomed by Gill, the Cub Provincial Commissioner for Gauteng, and were then treated to The Gum Boot dance presented by school children from the local primary school. After dinner was the first evening's entertainment, all to do with music from the movies.

On the Saturday morning we all participated in a team building exercise and then started with the game bases presented by the Rovers and some of the Akelas from Gauteng area. The evening's entertainment was absolutely hilarious.

Sunday morning was very special as we boarded the busses that transported us to Gilwell for our group photograph and Cub's Own service. From there we boarded the busses again and were taken to Newtown, Johannesburg to visit the Africa Museum and Sci-Bono, where we had so much fun. You could touch and play with everything, a cub's dream destination.

Thanks to Thandi for the beautiful Zulu outfits we adorned for our skit from "Shaka Zulu" that evening, Byron looked very smart in his Zulu outfit too, and the hall erupted with cheers as we finished. The paparazzi just would not leave us alone after that and we walked away with four certificates. Well done everyone, the performance was superb!

Monday was craft day and we all enjoyed making the different crafts and even learning to shoot with a pellet air gun.

Later that afternoon we all prepared for the banquet. We all walked down the "Red Carpet" into the banquet hall, where we sat in our Provincial Contingents. Dinner was served to us by the Rovers, we listened to the guest speaker, who climbed Mount Everest, and then the gifts were presented to Gauteng to thank them for hosting Pow Wow 2012.

Laughter carried on late into the night as we all recalled our awesome experiences over the weekend.

Tuesday morning arrived very quickly and soon we all had to say our goodbyes for now, until the next Pow Wow in two year's time.

Thank you Gauteng Contingent for a wonderful Pow Wow 2012.



And the winners are... the KZN cub leaders all dressed for the POW WOW party.

Backwoods 2012

The 3rd Newcastle Troop joined the 1st Ladysmith Troop for a Backwoods camp on a farm in Collings Pass on the 21st April 2012. The scouts enjoyed making their water purification project to clean the water they had collected in their solar still. That afternoon shelters were made for the night, and on the menu that evening, gem squash mince, cooked on the open fire which had to be made with flints and available material. A "comfortable" night ahead under the makeshift shelters in the middle of the woods, followed by breakfast of potato eggs cooked in the coals of the fire. By this time, home and a BATH looked very welcoming!



Northern Natal scouts experience the thrill of Backwoods camping during a combined 3rd Newcastle and 1st Ladysmith camp.

Overnight Hike 2012



3rd Newcastle scouts enjoy the magnificent scenery on their Mullers Pass hike.

On the 19th May 2012, six Scouts of the 3rd Newcastle Scout Troop hiked from Normandien pass to Mullers Pass on an overnight hike. A couple of BIG baboons were sighted along the way to the picturesque Ncandu Falls where they stopped for lunch. Ncandu Forest Reserve Hut was a welcome sight for the overnight stop, food was prepared and the scouts settled down for the cool night ahead. The scouts woke to a beautiful sunrise atop the mountain with a carpet of mist covering the valley below. A quick breakfast before hitting the trail to Moorfield, Mullers Pass to get their transport home. An awesome experience for all who attended.

4th Durban (St Thomas) Celebrates their Centenary 1912 - 2012

How it all began - a bit of history (extract taken from an article written by St Thomas old boy (Lion Patrol) 'The Bugle' Magazine.

"In the closing months of 1911 the St Thomas church wardens felt there was a need to create an organization to meet the social needs of the young boys, particularly the choir boys, attending the Church, and a Boys' Club was formed. It had only been functioning for a few months when Lieut-General Baden-Powell (as he was then) arrived in Durban on a lecture tour of South Africa. The Club members were invited to attend his address on scouting, and having captivated his audience the club was disbanded and a Troop of Boy Scouts was formed and named themselves the St Thomas Scout Group.

In July 1913 the first camp lasting eleven days was held. The site chosen was Shorts Corner at the Bluff, then surrounded by bush. The Troop consisted of 7 Patrols and a Patrol was formed at Sydenham which was affiliated to St Thomas Troop, and although it did its Scout work at St Johns Church Hall, it took part in all the major functions held by St Thomas Troop.

In 1914 Collin Grace took over the Troop and the First World War broke out in August of that year.

The next four years of war were to see many of the older boys joining the army. During these war years the St Thomas Troop rendered valuable service for the war effort in many ways including the collecting of waste paper and bottles for the war fund. The Troop also assisted the VAD & YMCA in running canteens for the convoys of British troops

passing through Durban on their way to India and the Middle East.

Collin Grace headed the Natal Contingent to the First World Scout Jamboree in London, 1920.

He was rewarded, for his scouting service, by having the highest and most coveted Scout decoration "The Silver Wolf" bestowed on him by the Chief Scout Sir Robert (later Lord) Baden-Powell at this Jamboree. Collin Grace set an amazing foundation for the St Thomas Troop.

100 years later - This very proud active group are still at St Thomas Church hall in Berea, Durban with 28 scouts and 37 cubs with Group Scouter Fred Penn. Troop Scouters Pat Brown, Brendon Hatcher, and Janet Talbot, Pack Scouters Judy Elderton, Delaine Rolston, Imelda Haarhoff and Chairman Rod Maple.

CELEBRATIONS:

Please contact Judy Elderton if you would like to join 4th Durban for their Thanksgiving Service at St Thomas Anglican Church at 6pm Sunday 5 August 2012 or Centenary Dinner which will be held on Saturday 25 August 2012. All in full uniform. elderton@saol.com or phone Judy: 031 201 1068



St Thomas scouts camping at Ocean Beach, Durban - 9 April 1915.



4th Durban scouts and cubs now, April 2012.

Rovers revel in fun night out

Highway Rover member, Clare Phyfer writes...

On Thursday 12 April Highway and Sigma Rover Crews met up for a combined meeting. This was held at Funland in Amanzimtoti. Although the venue was very informal the Crews decided to dress formally, just for fun. This confused the staff and other patrons and we were asked several times why we were dressed up. Despite this everyone made a serious effort and looked great.

The evening started out with a meal at RJs where the two crews got to chat and get to know each other. After the meal we headed to the bumper cars, of which there were 15, the exact amount of Rovers there! This was followed by

playing Kentucky Derby, where Sigma Crew won themselves a little green fluffy dog as a mascot. We were also able to go on the X Rider, a 4D cinema experience, and play some of the arcade games. The crews then finished the evening with a game of tenpin bowling, where we discovered that dorky bowling shoes go surprisingly well with suits!

The meeting was a resounding success in getting to know other Rovers, but more importantly, in having fun.



(l-r) Amy Topper, Graeme McIntosh, Brendon Small, Clare Phyfer, Carmen Jearey, Chad Smith, Joe Brickhill, Michelle Sholto-Douglas, Marco Tivers, Michael Sharp, Megan McQuillian, Grant Vernon, Cameron Belling, Caitlin Torlage, Dylan Seppings.



Grant Vernon and Chad Smith shooting up the baddies.

KZN warrant course a success

Three Warrant Courses, cubs, scouts and rovers were all run concurrently at BP Camp over the weekends 4 & 5 May and 19 & 20 May 2012. There was lots of hard work –with much laughter, plenty of learning and fun. Congratulations to all who passed the course and welcome as adult leaders to the KZN brotherhood of scouting.



Dr Dudley Forde was invited to share his knowledge of Leadership with all three courses.



Badger (Paul Brock) and Stork (Lynton Cloete) working with the Tutor Groups on the Scout Warrant.



Deborah Foord with all the Cub Warrant Participants on the lower Parade Ground.

2012

Diary Dates

July 2012

12-15 PLTC course

August 2012

24-26 Tutor course

24-26 Pathfinder course

September 2012

1 Gilwill reunion

13-16 Hasting Challenge

15 Provincial Rally



South Africa



Next Issue: 2 October 2012

Copy Deadline: 17 September

Edited for the
KwaZulu-Natal Scout Head Quarters
by: Steve Camp
Telephone: 079 391 1866
E-mail: stevecamp@vodamail.co.za

For further information contact:
THE KWAZULU-NATAL SCOUT HEAD QUARTERS
19 Earl Haig Road, Rose Glen, Durban
Telephone: 031 207 5738 or 031 207 8793
Fax: 031 207 7057
Email: kzn@scouting.org.za

Sigma Crew revamp den

A ceremony was held at 1st Port by the Sigma Rover Crew in their revamped Sigma crew den to officially open their revamped crew den. This new facility will be used as a training centre for KZN Sea scouts. The occasion was used to dedicate the den to Dr Dudley Forde, who has been a great inspiration to the crew.



Dr Dudley Forde opens the Sea Scout Training Centre at the Sigma Rover crew den, and is congratulated by Sigma Rover crew leader Grant Vernon.